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Education Probe Told:

Cut Hygiene And Teach Them French

How to keep clean and how to get along with people are subjects more for the home than for school, a parent-teacher association spokesman suggested yesterday to the royal commission on education.

The commission, headed by Dean S. N. F. Chant of the University of B.C., heard elaborations on 11 previously-submitted briefs in the first two days of hearings at Oak Bay Junior High School.

Monterey PTA had submitted a brief urging that courses in the sciences, history, geography and French be started at the primary level. Commissioner J. E. Liersch wanted to know if this proposal wouldn't mean displacing other valuable instruction.

But John D. Taylor, representing the PTA, said much time was spent on hygiene and social studies. He suggested it would be beneficial to "eliminate the health and bring in the French teacher."

Mr. Taylor appeared to be in some agreement with the Deep Cove Property Owners' Association which earlier had called for an end to the "soft approach" in education.

Turning out well-rounded individuals was fine, Mr. Taylor said, but the PTA felt there was a distinct tendency to let studies on the academic side fall more than was necessary.

The commission also questioned Mr. Taylor about the PTA's recommendation that "consideration be given to instituting some form of compulsory school-approved dress."

No Uniforms Suggested

Mr. Taylor assured the commission the association wasn't suggesting uniforms — "not necessarily girls in black middies and long black stockings, but some form of standardization."

Girls might be in neat sweaters and skirts, he said, and boys might be prohibited from wearing black jackets with steel buttons or big boots.

Mr. Liersch asked if the PTA was thinking about taxes when it recommended that expenditures for gymnasiums, auditoriums, cafeterias and other facilities not essential to education be reduced.

Mr. Taylor said the PTA's point of view was more that "there's a certain amount of money to spend, and let's get the most academic training out of it that you can."

The auditorium used for the hearings was a good example, he said, because it had a costly sloping floor. With a flat floor it could double as a gymnasium.

Mr. Taylor also suggested to the commission that a return to more academic teaching presumed a return to much stronger discipline.

"There's quite a lot to be said for the hickory stick method," he said.

The Deep Cove Property Owners' Association brief had strongly criticized "progressive" education and called for stronger discipline, separation of academic and technical students, more emphasis on academic training, elimination of auditoriums and gymnasiums from school and of physical education courses.

Douglas Cobbett, representing the association, said in reply to commission questions that the group felt education had come to a crisis.

Something Drastic Needed

He couldn't say that everything in the progressive philosophy was bad, Mr. Cobbett said, "but it has got out of hand, and the interpretation of that philosophy has become almost ridiculous. Something drastic will have to be done and fairly quickly."

There was a dearth of time to amass "only a small part of what one would like to know in the field of knowledge," he said—"Why then are we in the West so concerned with social adjustment, hobbies and such trivia, when there is a job to be done?"

On the question of physical education, he said the feeling of the group seemed to be that calisthenics had a place in the schools, but games were not conducive to good physical health.

(A spokesman for the Greater Victoria branch of the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Inc., said later in the day that games had a great contribution to make in physical education and in education generally).

Mr. Cobbett maintained that progressivism had weakened discipline—"It has become extremely weak." Tightening it up would benefit not only the students but in due course the whole of society, he said.

Summer May Be Extended

Days may be "longer" later in Victoria's tourist season, Provincial Secretary Wesley Black told Victoria Chamber of Commerce yesterday.

Mr. Black wrote to the tourist trade group of the chamber saying that the provincial cabinet will consider an extension of daylight saving time by a month, to the last Sunday in October. The move was requested by the group earlier this month.

Gaglardi Travels Cost Most

B.C.'s cabinet ministers spent $31,388.61 in travelling expenses, the Public Accounts, released yesterday, disclosed.

Highways Minister Gaglardi retained the distinction of being the cabinet's most travelled minister. He spent $4,269.77 and costs of his air travel could be added to this total when highways department accounts are considered later in the session.

Mines Minister Kenneth Kiernan was second with $3,605.92 in travelling expenses, and Labor Minister Wicks, along with his second portfolio of railways minister, was next biggest spender at $3,513.69, just nosing out Premier Bennett, who spent $3,502.86 in travelling. Attorney-General and Trade Minister Robert Bonner spent $3,223.26.

Northwest Newsmen To Gather

The Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association's annual convention opens this morning in the Empress Hotel—the first time the convention has been held here in some 30 years.

Business sessions will be held this morning, this afternoon and tomorrow morning. Election of officers will take place tomorrow.

M. J. Frey, publisher of the Portland Oregonian, is retiring president of the association. Secretary is Adam Lieweilan.

Three Alternatives

Lone Tender Decides Fate of Old Houses

A single tender received for completion of rebuilding of seven houses moved by the city to Chambers and Queens will be opened by city council today.

The price quoted will lead council to a decision on one of three courses: letting a contract for the work, having city workmen finish the job they started or offering the houses for sale "as is."

Six of the houses were moved to their present location from the site of the new firehall and one from Caledonia Avenue. Original rough estimate of renovating them for sale was $35,000, but nearly $58,000 had been spent by the time work stopped early in December, and an estimate at that time was that another $28,000 would be needed to complete them.

Student Merchant Princes Idea May Be Tried Out in Victoria

Victoria Jaycees may sponsor the formation of "manufacturing companies" with high school students as officers and employees under the junior achievement scheme operating throughout North America.

Jaycee members Roy Baker and Alex Marshall recently visited Vancouver to gain information about the program.

Tentative plans for introduction of the scheme to Victoria call for eight companies with between 12 and 20 high school students in each company. Capital is raised by selling shares at 50 cents each and any profit from the year's operations is returned to shareholders.

Companies manufacture articles and sell them. Regular officers are appointed within each group and city businessmen will be asked to advise and help the teen-age businessmen.

Det. Robert Mair
Checking bedding in room where stabbing occurred. . . .

Det. Alex Briggs
Follows trail of bloodstains.

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Victim Found Bleeding on Street

Pensioner Stabbed in Hotel

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A Victoria pensioner was in "satisfactory" condition in Royal Jubilee Hospital last night, the victim of a bizarre stabbing affray in a hotel at 1312 Government.

Robert H. Jones, 67, war veteran and for many years an employee of the federal post office, suffered a stab wound in the chest and lost considerable blood before reaching hospital.

The incident came to police attention shortly after 3.30 p.m. when a woman approached Const. Ronald Ferguson at Government and Yates and complained that her husband was bothering her.

Const. Ferguson turned to the man and saw that he was bleeding from a wound in the chest. The officer promptly called for the police ambulance and the man, Mr. Jones, was taken to hospital.

The woman was taken to city police headquarters.

There were indications that both had been drinking.

Back in the hotel where the two had been living common-law for some time (Mr. Jones had been a tenant there for two weeks) neighbors told of hearing quarreling between them for some time.

"They'd been brawling for days," said William Coventry, who occupies the next room.

"They'd been brawling for days," he repeated several times, then added:

"I heard her say, 'I want my purse. This is your last chance.' I didn't hear any more. I think they went out then."

SIMILAR COMMENT

A similar comment by the woman was overheard by Ernie Kruse, whose room is next but one on the other side of Jones'.

"I'd been out shopping," he said, "and when I was coming in I heard the woman say 'Give me my purse!'

"She was standing outside her door, wearing a skirt and blouse. I didn't see him then. He may have been in the room.

"A few minutes later I went out of my room to get some water.

"She was out there again, this time fully dressed. I heard her say 'Don't push me, I can get down.'

"A moment or so later I looked over the stair rail, and he (Mr. Jones) was sitting on one of the steps, half-way down. I don't know where she was, or when they went out."

ARGUMENTS HEARD

Mr. Kruse said he'd heard the two arguing the last couple of nights.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Holben, managers of the hotel, saw the two leave the building, but had no idea anything was seriously wrong.

"The woman was making quite a disturbance," said Mr. Holben, "and Mr. Jones apologized to my wife for the way the other woman was behaving. He looked a bit pale, but we didn't know he was hurt."

BOTH WENT OUT

"We certainly didn't," said Mrs. Holben, "or we'd have called the police right away."

"We told him to let her go," said Mr. Holben, "and the two apparently went out. I don't know if they went outside together."

The stabbing obviously occurred in the room the two occupied, near the head of the stairs on the second floor. There were bloodstains on bed and floor, near the door, on the stairway, and just inside the street-level door.

Apparent weapon was one of two butcher knives found in the room, one in a drawer, the other in a club bag. One of them had also been used in preparing a meal, evidently to be cooked on the small hotplate in the room.

WILLIAM COVENTRY
"They'd been brawling for days. . . ."

Neighbors of Couple Tell of 'Brawlings'

Second Look Urged

Port Bypass Plan Scored

Comox MLA Dan Campbell yesterday urged Northland Navigation Co. to take a second look at its plan to cut Campbell River from its ports of call.

The Northland company, which recently took over the service from Union Steamships, this week dropped Campbell River from its itinerary on both north and southbound trips between Vancouver and northern Vancouver Island points.

Mr. Campbell said the Northland company claims there is no point in calling at Campbell River because that village has reasonable road connections.

"That is not the point at all," Mr. Campbell said. "Campbell River happens to be the jumping off point for people going to and from the north end of the Island. Now a traveller wishing to go to the north end of the Island has to go all the way to Vancouver first."

Mr. Campbell charged there has been "a chipping away of all transportation services to the north Island, particularly in the last 20 years." He said the area is worse off now than it was 20 years ago.

Now served by Northland Navigation are Alert Bay, Sointula, Port Hardy, Port McNeil and Port Alice.

Around the Island

Walk to School Cut?

NANAIMO—School trustees here may revert to the two-mile walk limit for rural students attending junior high schools and solve the transportation problem for about 60 youngsters.

But by doing so, the board will be footing the bill on its own. Letter from the education department informed the board that the transportation costs would not be shared by the government.

Notice of motion by Mrs. Marion Ricker asked that the walk-line revert to two miles from two and one-half miles. Junior high school students in Wellington and Chase River would then be eligible for bus transportation to school.

Parents protested enforcement of the two and one-half mile limit earlier this month because it meant their children would have to walk to school along the busy Trans-Canada Highway.

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NANAIMO—Former alderman Edward Blackburn was fined $10 yesterday for driving on the wrong side of the road after his car was in collision with another vehicle at Wall and Bradley.

Magistrate Lionel Beevor-Potts will recommend that a telephone pole be moved to afford drivers approaching the intersection better visibility.

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NANAIMO — Social Credit League of Nanaimo and district will elect new officers at a meeting here Saturday. The meeting will be attended by cabinet ministers Ray Williston and Earle Westwood.

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CAMPBELL RIVER — Tony Roberts was elected chief councillor of the Wee-Wai-Kum Indian band here at a general meeting of the band.

Other officers are Ralph Roberts and Joe Quicksister with Mrs. Tony Roberts as secretary.

DUNCAN—Directors of the Vancouver Island Ayrshire Club presented M. C. Nissen, Sooke, with a certificate issued by the Canadian Ayrshire Association for the lifetime production of the cow "Edenbank Etta" which has given more than 100,000 pounds of milk at over 4 per cent butterfat.

A silver spoon with an Ayrshire emblem was also presented Mr. Nissen from the B.C. Ayrshire club.

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LAKE COWICHAN — Officers of the Lake Cowichan AOTS Club are Jack Irving, president; Hugh Roberston, vice-president; Ray Lang, secretary, and Oscar Winquist, treasurer.

Norm Carter, Duncan president, and Ed Hess, Chemainus, V.I. District Council president, were installing officers.

The retiring president, Norm Webb, said the annual Nut Drive was the most reliable source of income, and praised George Blewett, Honeymoon Bay, for selling 864 boxes single-handed, believed to be a B.C. record among AOTS clubs.

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CHEMAINUS — Don Cameron of Vancouver, former owner of the Blue Goose Motel at Pentiction, has purchased the Chemainus Bowlarena from the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Norman Price, forced to dispose of their business, owing to ill health.

Manager will be Pete Pederson, formerly of Vancouver.

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CHEMAINUS — Work was started this week on the driving of the piles for the ferry slip at the Chemainus end, for the new Thetis Island-Crofton ferry.

Fraser Pile Driving Company, with a crew of six men and a mobile crane brought in on a scow, with leads and pile driver hammer, are doing the work.

The ferry slip has also to be put in at Preedy Harbor, Thetis Island, the home port of the ferry, which will be tied up there when not in use.

There has been no word from Somas Shipyards, Alberni as to when the delivery of the ferry will be made here. In December they stated it would be ready for delivery in late January.

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PARKSVILLE — Henry H. Jackson was appointed as building inspector for 1959 for the village of Parksville by council chairman Albert J. Lock at the regular mid-monthly meeting.

Eric Blower was also appointed as poundkeeper and permission given for him to erect a pound on his property on Corfield Road. Councillor Arthur E. Briggs was appointed as the village representative to the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board and Arthur H. Butler as representative to the Vancouver Island Board of Health.

The council decided to submit an application for the spending of approximately $1,000 under the government winter works program.

Working committees, with chairman named first, are: Finance, A. J. Lock, Frank Shortreid; public works, Victor Finholm Sr., A. E. Briggs; buildings and subdivisions, Briggs and Finholm; waterworks, Shortreid, A. H. Butler; fire, sanitation, pest control and garbage dump control, Butler and Briggs, and town plannings, Briggs.

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PORT ALBERNI — This district's semi-annual Red Cross blood donor clinic went over the quota with six pints to spare.

The clinic, convened by Mrs. F. G. Weaver, closed at 9 p.m. Wednesday, with 606 pints donated to the province's blood bank.

An appeal on the second day of the two-day clinic brought over 140 donors of "O" type to overcome a shortage in Vancouver where some operations were being deferred waiting for an adequate supply.

Jaycees of the Albernis were responsible for advertising and transportation for the clinic.

Mrs. Weaver expressed her satisfaction in results of the drive and in co-operation given by Jaycees and other organizations. She reported that Wednesday afternoon, in spite of adverse driving conditions and with snow still falling, was the "biggest" afternoon in the 13 years since donor clinics were organized here.

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A donation of $300 has been given to the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society by the Nanaimo Club, Associated Canadian Travellers, to establish a bursary for a Vancouver Island girl to train as a physiotherapist in Edmonton, Alberta.

Miss Mary Pack, executive secretary for the B.C. Division of C.A.R.S., said absence of a physiotherapy training school in B.C. and the fact there are only four schools of physiotherapy in Canada has resulted in a shortage of therapists.

Anyone wishing to follow this profession and take up the bursary supplied by the Associated Canadian Travellers should contact the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society in Vancouver.

Applicants should be of senior matriculation or first year university standard, with a Grade 12 standing in subjects required for admission to B.Sc. course in the Faculty of Arts and Science.